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CIA Late Item

IRAN-IRAQ: New Iranian Attack

The Iranians have begun a new attack on Iraqi forces. [REDACTED]

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Tehran radio announced this morning that Iranian forces launched a major offensive last night. The announcement was sourced to the operational headquarters west of Dezful which controls Iranian forces on the Doveyrich River front--the scene of the major buildup that has been under way for over two months. A senior Iranian Air Force medical officer reportedly said on Saturday that doctors were being sent to Dezful to handle the casualties expected from an imminent Iranian offensive. [REDACTED]

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As is customary, the Iranians claim initial success, saying they liberated territory occupied by the Iraqis. The Iraqis, for their part, maintain they have checked the Iranian advance. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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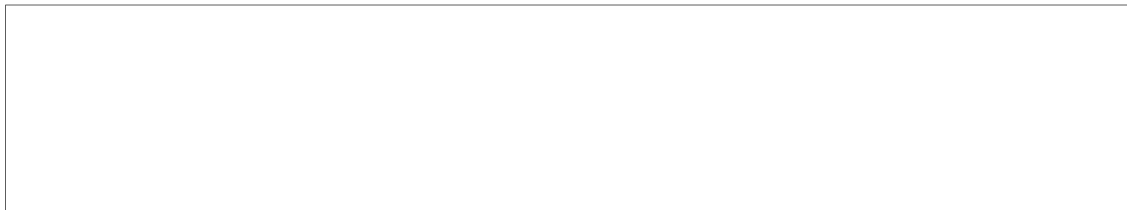
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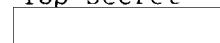
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EL SALVADOR: Political Tensions Ease

The danger of a coup attempt by rightwing military officers has decreased for now. [REDACTED]

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The US Embassy reports that far-right leader D'Aubuisson and his supporters appear to be backing away somewhat from their strident antigovernment statements of last week. In addition, dissident Lt. Col. Ochoa has said he will leave this week to begin his assignment in Washington. [REDACTED]

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The battlefield situation, meanwhile, remains unchanged. The Army is continuing its counterinsurgency campaign in northern Morazan Department, and guerrilla factions on various fronts are attacking towns, public utilities, and military targets. [REDACTED]

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Comment: [REDACTED]

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The insurgents are well informed about current problems in the military and the government, and they are likely to continue their offensive for at least several more weeks. They recognize that their actions coincide with the Pope's impending visit to Central America, ongoing regional discussions about negotiations, and the aid certification debate in the US Congress. [REDACTED]

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VENEZUELA-SURINAME: Relations Cool

The Venezuelan Government has canceled the visit this week of acting Surinamese Foreign Minister Naarendorp, apparently in reaction to the death last week of former Deputy Army Commander Horb.

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The Mexican Government also has declined to receive Naarendorp on his tour of Latin American capitals, which had been planned as an effort to improve Suriname's image in the region. Stops in Panama, Colombia, and Brazil are still scheduled.

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The US Embassy in Paramaribo reports that few Surinamers believe their government's claim that Horb committed suicide by hanging himself. the regime's statements about how he died while in custody contradict known facts about prison conditions and procedures. In addition, Horb's next of kin who viewed his body saw no evidence of death by hanging.

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Comment: Venezuela's cancellation of Naarendorp's visit is the sharpest official reaction there thus far to recent events in Suriname, and it suggests that President Herrera may now be preparing to take a harder line. His government has encountered mounting public criticism for ignoring human rights violations in Suriname, but the President has been reluctant to break openly with a government that has promised to support Venezuela's bid for membership in the Nonaligned Movement. Caracas also views the Surinamers as potential allies in its long-standing territorial dispute with Guyana.

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News of Venezuela's and Mexico's cancellations and growing evidence that the Bouterse regime was behind Horb's death may prompt the remaining nations on Naarendorp's itinerary to rebuff him. Paramaribo will be disturbed by such reactions but probably will not alter its methods of dealing with potential domestic opponents.

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TURKEY: Pessimism About Controlling Violence

Some senior military and police officials doubt the government's ability to control terrorism for long once the military returns power to civilian leaders. [redacted]

[redacted]

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Comment: The military leaders have tended to ignore many of the causes of the violence that wracked Turkey in the 1970s. They blame the political system for failing to instill their society with an appreciation for responsible opposition and political moderation, and they have ordered changes in the education system. The generals admit, however, that it will take more than a generation for such changes to take root. [redacted]

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To fill the gap, the government is drawing up and enacting a package of interim reforms. These include giving the President sweeping powers to deal with national emergencies and establishing state security courts to handle crimes against the state. [redacted]

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The generals' strategy is open to question. Even Turkish observers agree that the violence was only symptomatic of such systemic problems as chronic unemployment, political alienation, and social inequality. As long as these problems are not treated, they are likely to continue to produce violence and instability.

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IRELAND: Former Prime Minister in Difficulty

Former Prime Minister Haughey appears unable to evade the growing demands for his resignation as leader of the Fianna Fail party. [redacted]

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An outburst of criticism and accusations has followed revelations in the press that the recently defeated Fianna Fail government employed telephone taps, secret tape recordings, and covert political action, and that a political conspiracy involved the highest justice official in the country. The police commissioner and his deputy have been granted "early retirement," and two ministers in the former government have resigned their positions in the shadow cabinet of the Fianna Fail. Prime Minister FitzGerald's government has announced a wide-ranging investigation. [redacted]

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Last Wednesday, 41 of the 74 Fianna Fail members of the parliament signed a petition calling for a meeting to consider whether Haughey should remain as party leader. The meeting is to be held today. This is the third--and strongest--attempt in the past year to oust him. [redacted]

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Comment: In what probably will be interpreted as a "mini-referendum" on Haughey's leadership, three of his outspoken critics in the Fianna Fail easily won election in the recent Irish Senate election. Two supporters were defeated. [redacted]

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Haughey seems unlikely to be able to defend himself against these latest efforts to unseat him. He is a tenacious fighter, but because he is no longer prime minister he cannot offer the patronage that defeated earlier attempts. If he is ousted, infighting over a successor probably will continue, limiting the party's effectiveness in opposition to FitzGerald's Fine Gael - Labor coalition. [redacted]

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MEXICO: Demand for Emergency Wage Hike

Labor leaders have requested a meeting of the national minimum wage commission to consider an emergency wage increase. Fidel Velasquez, head of the largest government-affiliated labor organization, claims that a 29-percent increase in consumer prices last month has wiped out the 25-percent minimum wage settlement of 1 January. The government, in a related development, has announced a program to ensure that prices of 17 basic foods do not increase faster than wages. [REDACTED]

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Comment: A substantial wage hike now would disrupt the IMF program and probably cause Mexico to miss several first-quarter economic performance targets by wide margins. Velasquez's inflation estimate probably is too high, but the rapid price increases that have already occurred are likely to prompt labor leaders to demand higher subsidies and a price freeze on additional basic consumer goods. Prospects for demonstrations against austerity policies by the labor rank and file and by opposition parties are growing. [REDACTED]

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PHILIPPINES: Concern About Insurgency

President Marcos is worried about recent Communist insurgent gains.

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Comment: The ability of the New People's Army to launch larger attacks--in some cases involving 100 to 300 men--has improved during the past six months. Last month the insurgents captured and briefly held a town in eastern Mindanao, forcing the government to send a Marine battalion and two Army battalions into the area. Although government control of the countryside is not in jeopardy, continued large attacks will cause serious strains for the Philippine armed forces, which face budget cuts.

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